

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the page 1 statement of priority claim as follows:

PRIORITY CLAIM

This application was filed as a 35 U.S.C. §371 of PCT/US04/43001, which was filed on December 21, 2004, and which Applicant claims priority benefits under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 & 365 on the basis of Provisional Patent Application No. 60/532,278, filed December 22, 2003. This application claims priority benefits under 35 U.S.C. §§120 and 365 and is a continuation-in-part of co-pending application serial number 10/503,217, filed August 2, 2004, which application was filed as a §371 of PCT/US03/03040, filed January 31, 2003, and which claims priority benefits under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 & 365 on the basis of Provisional Patent Application No. 60/355,234, filed February 7, 2002.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 8, line 23, as follows:

Encoding is possible for both intensity and wavelength properties of multi-layer films 12_1 - 12_N . A preferred embodiment is a particle 10 having multi-layer films 12_1 - 12_N that have mismatched optical thicknesses with generally planar interfaces therebetween. Optical thickness is defined as the refractive index of a layer multiplied by its metric thickness. Referring to FIGs. 2A and 2B, a particle 10 encoded in such a manner reveals an optical signature in a Fourier transform of the resulting reflectivity interference spectrum. An exemplary resulting interference spectrum is shown in FIG.

2A. The Fourier transform shown in FIG. 2B reveals an optical signature with well-resolved peaks. Particles 10 may be set to have a distinct series of peaks (a, b, c).